



PHS

Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
100 N. 20th Street – 5th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495
215.988.8800
PHSonline.org

India

Desert Oasis

The Plants and Gardens of
Western Rajasthan



September 28 - October 13, 2016



PHS PENNSYLVANIA
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

Dear PHS Members and Friends,

Join PHS for this in-depth exploration of the horticulture and gardens of the Thar desert of Western Rajasthan. This arid expanse of over 77,000 square miles forms a natural boundary between India and Pakistan and was once ruled by the Great Desert Kingdoms of Jodhpur, Jaisalmer and Bikaner. Our trip will include visits to several, newly-restored Rajput palace gardens and their protective fortifications.

A highlight of the trip will be a private tour of the Rao Jodha Desert Rock Park in Jodhpur. This unique project was first conceived by the Mehrangarh Museum Trust in 2006 as a way to restore the natural ecology of the area around Mehrangarh Fort. The 175-acre park opened for visitors in 2012, and today contains over 300 species of trees, shrubs, vines, herbs, grasses and sedges.

Our trip also includes a visit to the National Research Center on Camel, which breeds a large percentage of the "Ships of the Desert" found in India, including those used by the Indian Army. A desert animal safari and two nights in a luxury tented camp set among the sand dunes will also be offered. Our tour will end in elegant Udaipur, home to the Jag Niwas and Jag Mandir floating palace gardens, just in time for the annual Hindu festival of Dussehra.

Allison Rulon-Miller, the Founder of From Lost to Found Travel in Philadelphia, who designed our sold-out trip to South India in 2013, created this itinerary to highlight a different region of this remarkable country. She has included many well-known luxury and heritage properties, such as the Taj Lake Palace in Udaipur, Raas Jodhpur, Ranvas in Nagaur, Gajner Palace in Bikaner, Rohet Wilderness Camp, Suryagarh in Jaisalmer and Deogarh Mahal. Our trip is timed to take place right after the annual monsoons in Rajasthan. This is an ideal time to view the region's flowering plants and shrubs, as well as to experience the harvesting and planting activities that occur in the desert at the cusp of the summer and winter crop seasons.

Trip extensions to the Taj Mahal and Jaipur (7 days/6 nights – September 22nd to 28th) and the Jain Temples of Ranakpur and Mt. Abu (3 days/2 nights – October 13th to 15th) will also be offered.

Suzanne Betts, PHS Membership Director and Allison Rulon-Miller will be your hosts on this trip. If you have any questions please contact Suzanne at sbetts@pennhort.org or call 215-988-8819. We look forward to having you travel with us!

Sincerely,



Suzanne W. Betts
Membership Director



DAY 1

Wednesday,
September 28, 2016

Fly U.S. to Delhi, arriving on Wednesday, September 28th. Upon arrival, you will be transferred to your hotel by private car.

Hotel: *The Leela, Delhi*

DAY 2

Thursday,
September 29, 2016

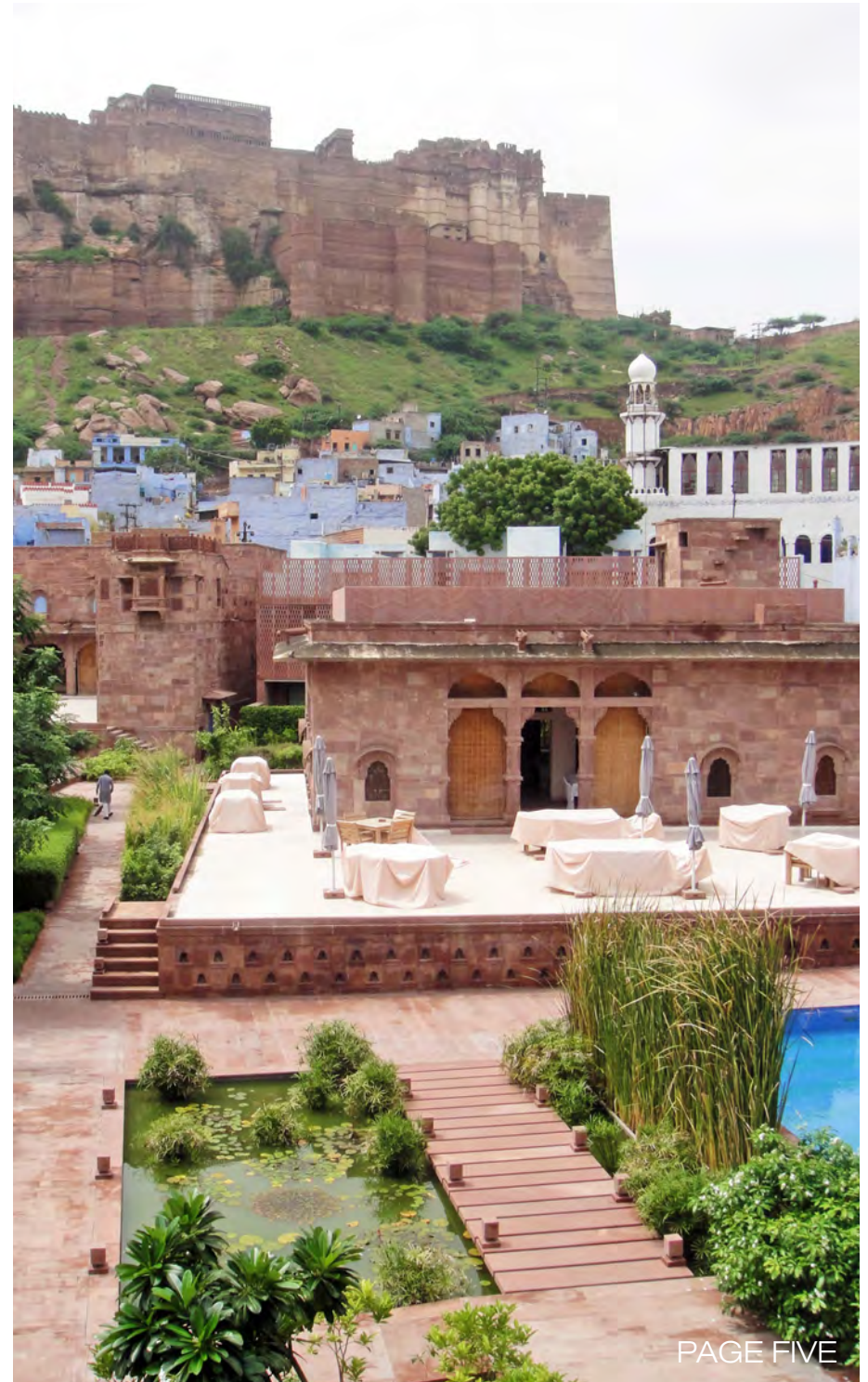
Morning flight to Jodhpur, which lies on the eastern edge of the Thar Desert. This arid expanse of over 77,000 square miles forms a natural boundary between India and Pakistan, and was once ruled by the Great Desert Kingdoms of Jodhpur, Jaisalmer and Bikaner. Lunch will be at your hotel, the award-winning Raas Jodhpur. Afternoon visit to Jaswant Thada, the 19th-century marble cenotaph of Maharaja Jaswant Singh II whose novel irrigation projects brought water to this extremely dry part of Rajasthan. This will be followed by a private tour of the Rao Jodha Desert Rock Park. This unique project was first conceived by the Mehrangarh Museum Trust in 2006 as a way to restore the natural ecology of the area around Mehrangarh Fort (see Day 3). For many years, invasive species were removed and native lithophytes (plants specially adapted to arid, rocky habitats) were replanted. The 175-acre park opened for visitors in 2012, and today contains over 300 species of trees, shrubs, vines, herbs, grasses and sedges.

(B, L, D) Hotel: *Raas Jodhpur, Jodhpur*

DAY 3

Friday,
September 30, 2016

Today we return to the Desert Rock Park at sunrise to explore the wide range of birds and other wildlife found in this restored habitat. This will be followed by a visit to the Central Arid Zone Research Institute, which is focused on improving agricultural productivity for farmers in arid regions such as the Thar



desert. Research projects include: the development of improved varieties of arid legumes (clusterbean, cowpea, moth bean, horse gram) and fruiting trees (ber); land use management; disease, insect and rodent control; and technologies to support livestock-based farming. *Note – this visit will require prior permission from the Indian government, which may or may not be granted, once the traveling group has been finalized.* Return to the hotel for lunch and a short rest.

In the late afternoon we will enjoy a private tour of Mehrangarh Fort, described by Rudyard Kipling as “the creation of angels, fairies and giants.” The Marwar ruler Rao Jodha began construction on this sandstone fort in 1459, with subsequent additions made by later rulers up until the mid-19th century. After our tour, we will dine by candlelight in Chokhelao Bagh, a restored, 18th-century Marwar garden situated at the foot of the Fort.

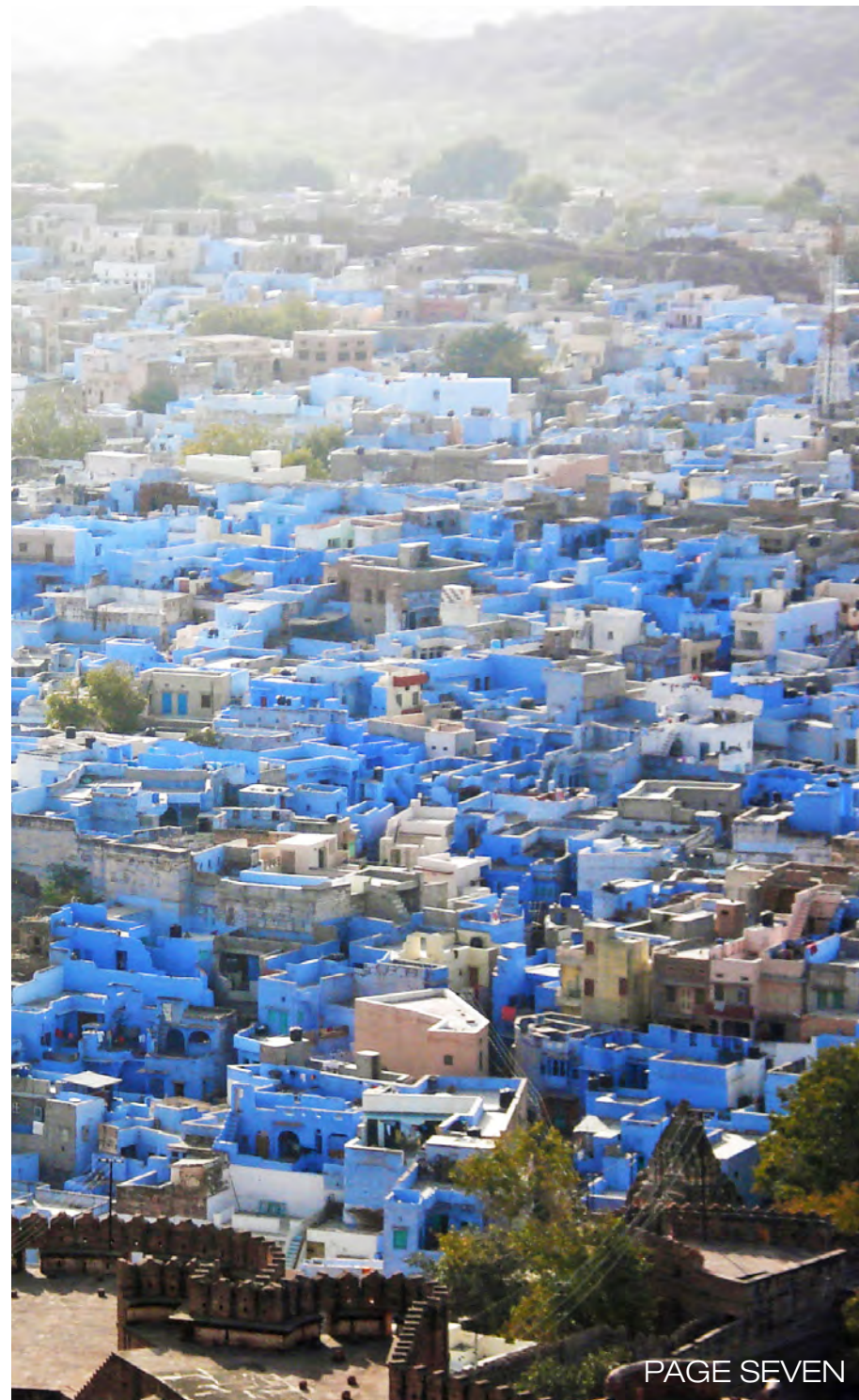
(B, L, D) Hotel: *Raas Jodhpur, Jodhpur*

DAY
4

Saturday,
October 1, 2016

Morning walk through Jodhpur’s fascinating ancient bazaar, which contains a sophisticated network of water channels and *baoris* (water reservoirs) which were used to provide water to the city’s residents. Afternoon visit to the Hindu and Jain temples of Osian (1 hour). These highly-decorated temples were built by wealthy traders between the 8th and 12th centuries when Osian was an important stop on the caravan route to Central Asia. Continue driving to Nagaur (2 hours), which was an early center of Muslim power in North India. Ranvas, your hotel for the next two nights, lies within the walls of the 12th-century Ahhichhatragarh Fort, or “Fort of the Hooded Cobra.” In the 17th century, the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan gave the town of Nagaur to a member of the royal family of Jodhpur. The hotel’s ten havelis, where the guest rooms are now located, once served as the residences of the 16 *ranis* (queens) of Maharaja Bakhat Singh.

(B, L, D) Hotel: *Ranvas, Nagaur*



DAY 5

Sunday,
October 2, 2016

Morning tour of Ahichhatragarh Fort. During the 18th century, Maharaja Bakhat Singh created within the fort a beautiful pleasure complex, complete with frescoed palaces, mosques, temples, marble viewing pavilions and a magnificent garden. Over the last twenty years, the palace and gardens have been slowly restored by the current Maharaja of Jodhpur along with the Mehrangarh Museum Trust, the Getty Foundation and the Helen Hamlyn Trust. The gardens feature large baoris connected by a network of water channels, 90 ornamental fountains, geometric planting beds, and the fascinating remains of an old lotus garden. A number of archeological digs and conservation projects are still ongoing in the complex. The fort recently received the Aga Kahn Award for Architecture, as well as an award from UNESCO for utilizing conservation techniques that respect traditional building methods. This afternoon you are free to relax at your hotel or to take a leisurely walk through Nagaur village.

(B, L, D) Hotel: *Ranvas, Nagaur*

DAY 6

Monday,
October 3, 2016

Morning drive to Bikaner (2 to 3 hours), founded in 1488 by Rao Bika, the son of Rao Jodha. En route we will stop at the Karni Mata Temple, also known as the Rat Temple due to the hundreds of rats that live here and are fed sweets and milk by devotees. Lunch in Bhanwar Niwas, a fanciful palace and garden complex constructed in 1927 that now houses a heritage hotel. Afternoon stroll through Bikaner's old bazaar, where one can find superb handicrafts such as carpets, items made from camel hide, and miniature paintings in the Bikaneri style. Continue driving to Gajner. Your home for the next two nights is Gajner Palace, a heritage hotel built from red sandstone that once served as the Summer Palace for the maharajas of Bikaner.

(B, L, D) Hotel: *Gajner Palace, Bikaner/Gajner*



DAY
7

Tuesday,
October 4, 2016

Morning tour of Junagarh Fort. This complex was built in the late 16th century by Rai Singh, the third ruler of Bikaner. Within the fort are dozens of highly-decorated palaces, temples and pavilions built by successive rulers. The oldest palace, the Lal Niwas, was built in 1595 and is decorated with red and gold floral motifs. The newest palace, the Durbar Niwas, was built in the early 20th century and now houses the fort museum. The Anup Mahal, or Privy Council Room, is decorated with exquisite ornamental lacquer work, while the Badal Mahal, or Cloud Palace, features paintings of clouds, lightening and rain. Afternoon visit to the National Research Center on Camel, which breeds a large percentage of the camels found in India, including those used by the Indian Army. Here you can sample a local delicacy – camel milk ice cream!

(B, L, D) Hotel: *Gajner Palace, Bikaner/Gajner*

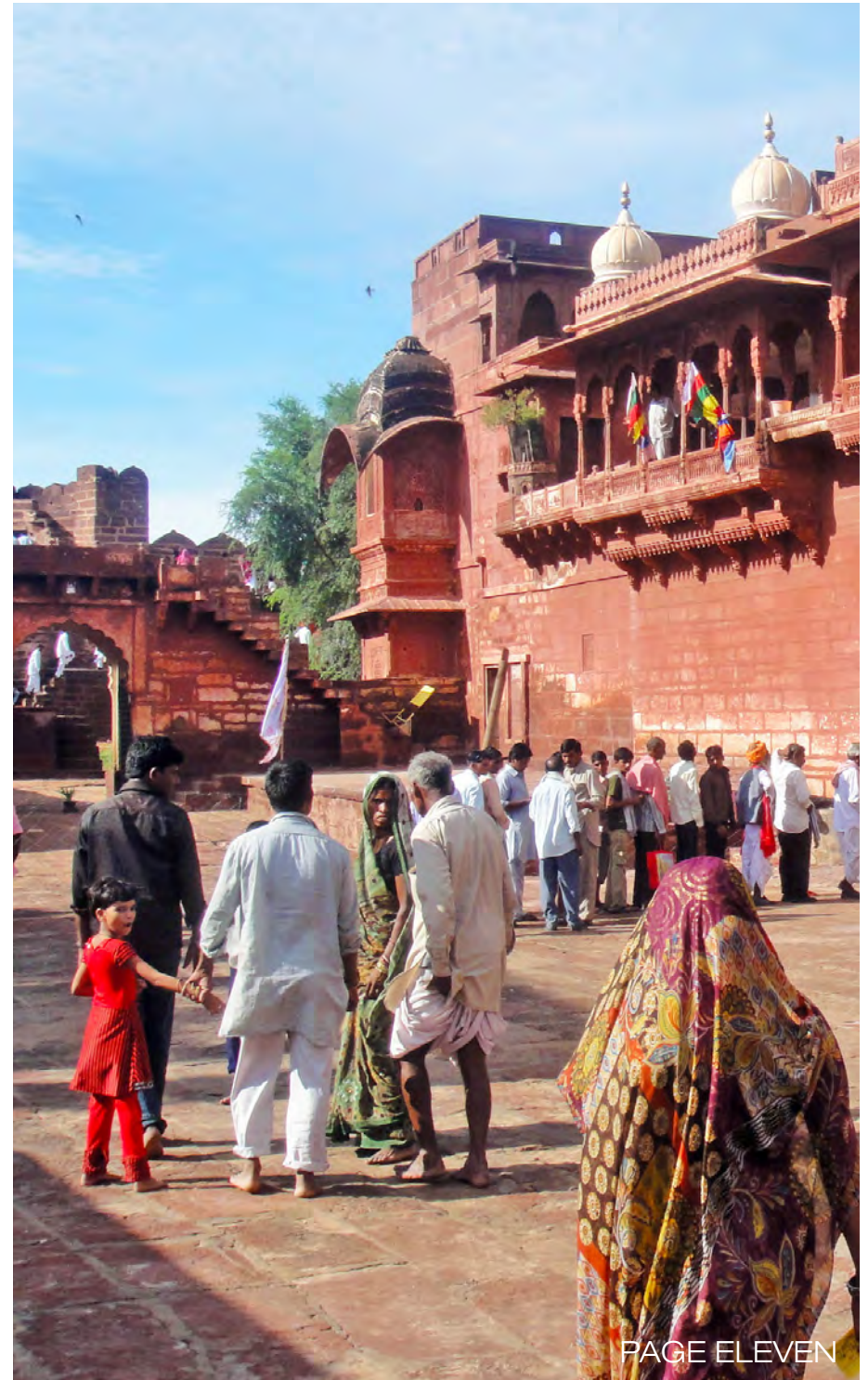
DAY
8

Wednesday,
October 5, 2016

Morning drive to Pokhran (3 to 4 hours), passing through acres of desert now irrigated by the Indira Gandhi Canal. This ambitious project was started in 1958, with the goal of using surplus water from the Ravi and Beas rivers in Punjab to irrigate far-Western Rajasthan. The first phase of the project was completed in 1986 and has significantly improved the agricultural productivity of this region; crops of mustard, cotton and wheat now flourish in what once was entirely sand. En route, we will stop in the village of Khichan to admire the demoiselle cranes that gather around its lake during their winter migration from the Mongolian steppes. Our home tonight is Fort Pokaran; part of this 14th-century fort has been converted into a heritage hotel, while the rest remains in its original state, allowing us to see first-hand the scope of restoration work required in an old royal complex. The fort contains a small museum of local artifacts, including the dagger of Baba Ramdev, a 15th-century saint who believed in the equality of all human beings and is revered by both Hindus and Muslims.

(B, L, D) Hotel: *Fort Pokaran, Pokhran*

PAGE TEN



PAGE ELEVEN

DAY
9

Thursday,
October 6, 2016

Morning drive to Jaisalmer (1 to 2 hours), which was founded in the 12th century by Maharawal Jaisal of the Bhatti Rajput clan. This town, just 50 miles from the Pakistan border, was once a busy trade port on the caravan route between India and Central Asia. En route, we will stop to visit a local date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*) plantation, an extremely valuable foodstuff that thrives in arid regions like the Thar desert. Upon arrival in Jaisalmer, we will visit Gadisar Lake, a picturesque reservoir lined with temples and ghats that was built in 1367. We will then visit Jaisalmer fort, built in 1156 from honey-colored sandstone. Thousands of people still reside within its walls, making it India's only inhabited fort. Afternoon visit to Jaisalmer's intricately-carved havelis (mansions built in the 19th century by the city's merchants) such as Patwon ki Haveli, Nathmalji's Haveli and Salim Singh's Haveli.

(B, L, D) Hotel: Suryagarh, Jaisalmer

DAY
10

Friday,
October 7, 2016

Full day exploration of the villages and desert around Jaisalmer. Here you will view up close many of the artfully-painted mud dwellings of the desert's farmers and camel and cattle breeders. Depending upon our route, we could cross paths with members of the Rabari, Banjara or Kalbelia tribes, all of whom are beautifully adorned. We will also visit Bada Bagh, an 18th-century garden (largely unrestored) that contains a collection of beautifully-carved cenotaphs belonging to various rulers of Jaisalmer. The valley below the cenotaphs still boasts a high natural water table, making it a valuable and picturesque location for local farmers to grow their commercial crops. You will end your day with a camel ride across the sand dunes to watch the sunset over the Thar desert.

(B, L, D) Hotel: Suryagarh, Jaisalmer



DAY
11

Saturday,
October 8, 2016

Leisurely drive to Rohet (5 to 6 hours), stopping for lunch in Jodhpur and to visit the region's famed weavers of cotton and wool dhurrie carpets. Many weavers still use organic dyes and feature traditional patterns, while others create modern, stylized designs using today's bright chemical dyes. Your home for the next two nights is Rohet Wilderness Camp, a luxury tented camp located in the vast scrub desert around Rohet village (all tents have proper toilet facilities with hot and cold water but no air conditioning).

(B, L, D) Hotel: *Rohet Wilderness Camp, Rohet*

DAY
12

Sunday,
October 9, 2016

Morning jeep safari around Rohet, where you will view local wildlife such as blackbuck antelope and herds of peacocks. You will visit a community of Bishnoi, fervent environmentalists who strive to protect every living creature. Here we will learn first-hand about the Bishnoi's agricultural practices. Rajasthan has two main crop seasons: *rabi* or winter, and *kharif* or summer. Rabi crops include barley, wheat, chick peas, pulses (peas, beans and lentils) and oil seeds. They are sown in the months of October and November, rely on irrigation for water, and are harvested in March and April. Kharif crops include millet, pulses, sorghum, maize and ground nuts. They are sown in June and July, rely on monsoon rains for water, and are harvested in September and October. You will also visit a Brahmin village, with its bright blue and purple houses featuring beautiful mud and clay cabinetry. Lunch will be a royal picnic, replete with crisp table linens and wine. This evening you will enjoy a culinary workshop at Rohet Garh, which has published several cookbooks, including *Cuisine of Rohet Garh* and *Quick and Easy Rajasthani Cuisine*.

(B, L, D) Hotel: *Rohet Wilderness Camp, Rohet*



DAY
13

Monday,
October 10, 2016

Morning drive to Pali (1 to 2 hours), a region surrounded by henna plantations. This ancient plant is used not only for mehndi body painting, but also to dye wool, silk, leather, fingernails and hair. Today we will visit a mehndi factory that produces some of the best henna products in India. After lunch in a local restaurant, we will continue driving to Deogarh (1 to 2 hours). The rest of the day is at your leisure to enjoy your hotel, the breathtaking Deogarh Mahal.

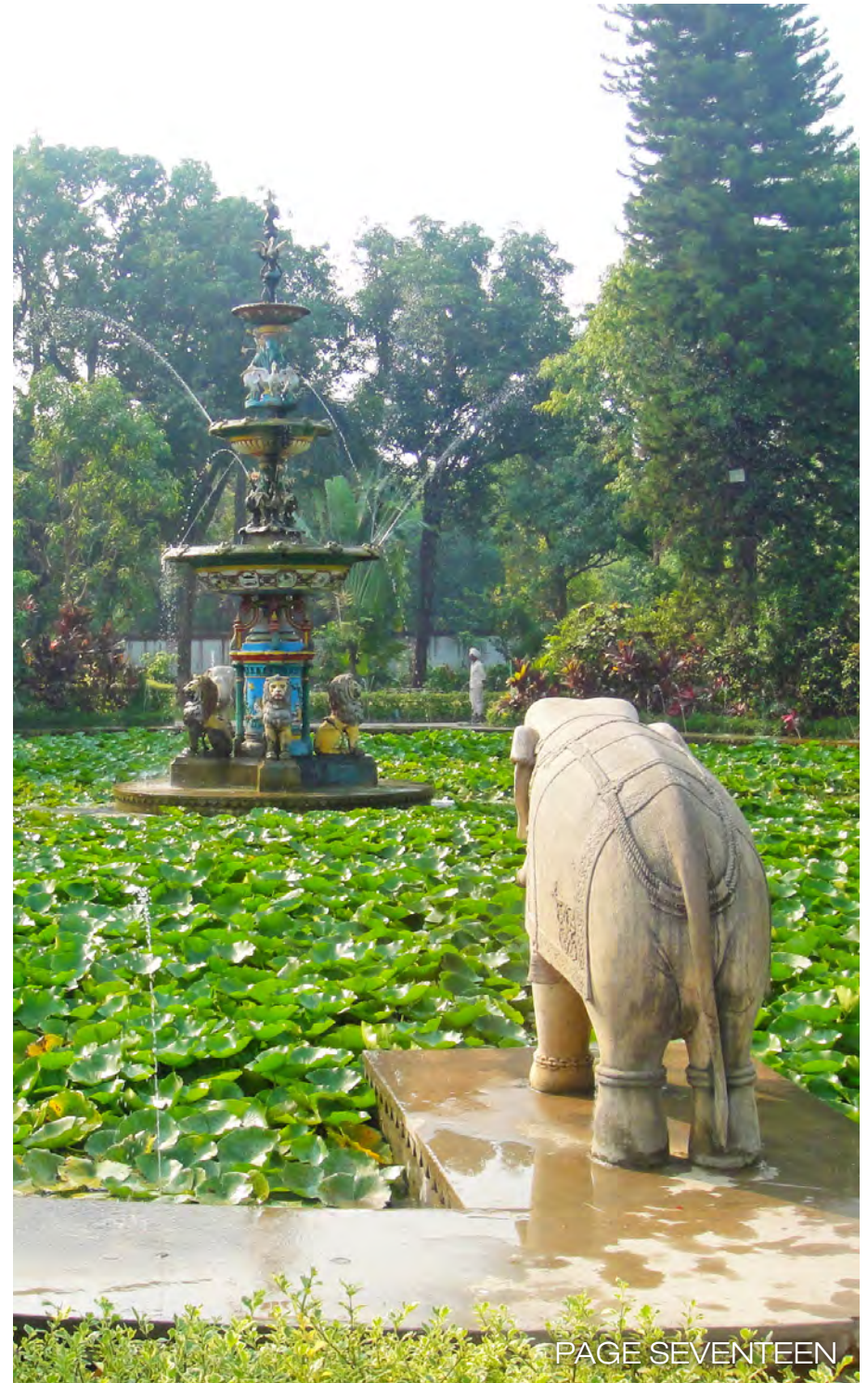
(B, L, D) Hotel: *Deogarh Mahal, Deogarh*

DAY
14

Tuesday,
October 11, 2016

Morning drive to Udaipur (2 hours), which was founded by Udai Singh in 1559, and later became the capital of the Rajput kingdom of Mewar. Upon arrival, we will visit Saheliyon ki Bari, or "Garden of the Maids," an eclectic, 18th-century garden built for an Udaipur queen and the 48 maids that were part of her dowry. Afternoon visit to the City Palace of Udaipur, the largest palace complex in Rajasthan. The various buildings in the palace were built by 22 different maharanas between the 16th and 20th centuries. The palace's Dilkushal Mahal contains two small chambers, the Kanch Burj and the Krishna Niwas, which are covered completely with red and silver glass and Mewar miniature paintings, respectively. We will then proceed to the dock of the Jag Niwas, now the Taj Lake Palace hotel. This remarkable floating palace was built in the 18th century as a summer retreat for the Udaipur royal family, and contains a beautiful water garden and lily pond.

(B, L) Hotel: *Taj Lake Palace, Udaipur*



DAY
15

Wednesday,
October 12, 2016

Morning visit to Bagore ki Haveli, an 18th-century haveli that now houses a museum of traditional crafts, costumes and musical instruments, including a superb collection of Rajasthani string puppets. After this, you will have free time to wander in Udaipur's old bazaar, which is filled with numerous handicraft shops and pleasant cafes. Afternoon boat ride along Lake Pichola, stopping for a visit at the Jag Mandir, a floating lake palace and garden complex built in 1620 that briefly served as a refuge for Prince Khurram, who later became the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan.

(B, L, D) Hotel: *Taj Lake Palace, Udaipur*

DAY
16

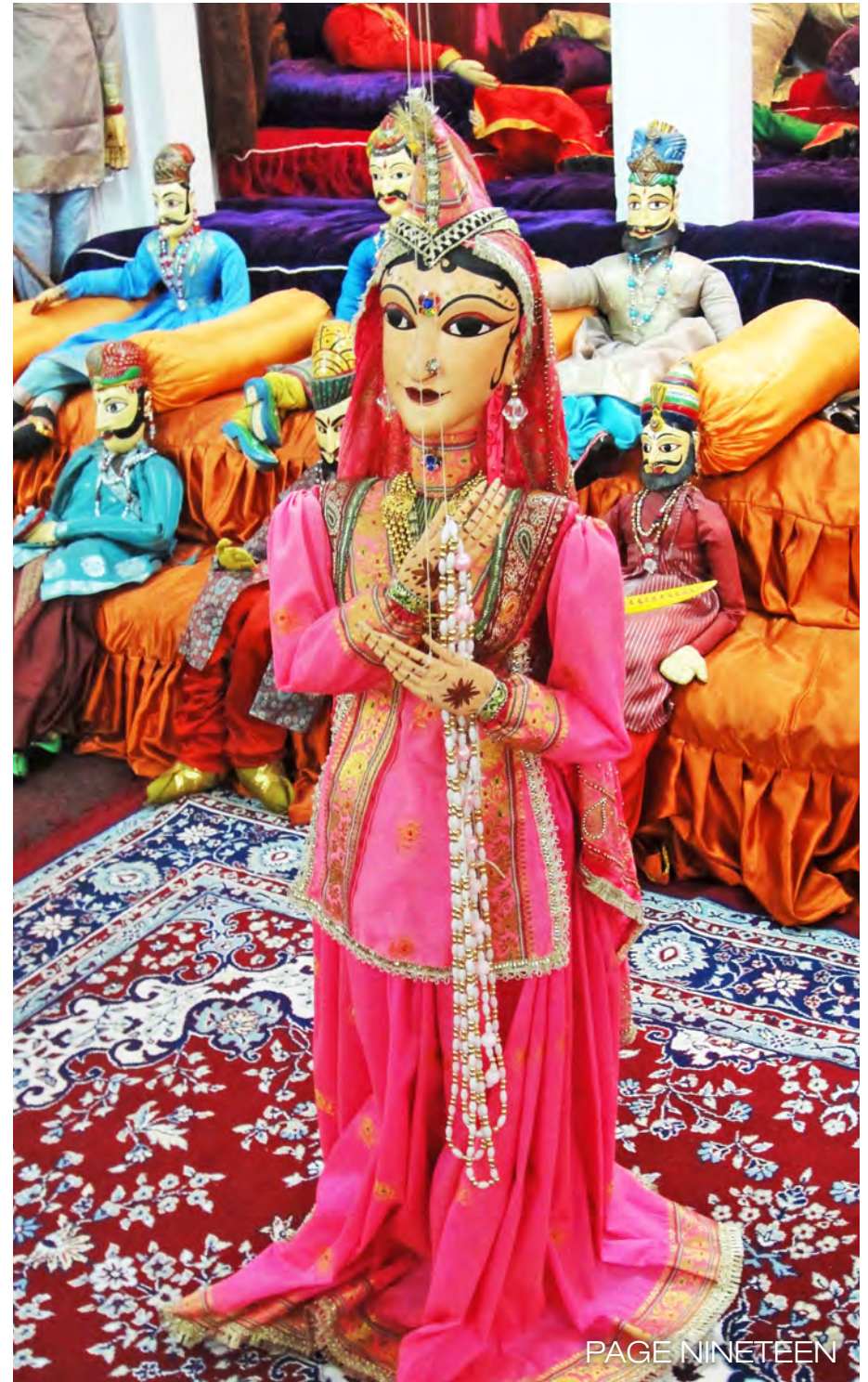
Thursday,
October 13, 2016

This morning you are free to relax at your hotel. Afternoon flight to Delhi to catch your return flight to the U.S., or continue on our post-trip extension, **The Jain Temples of Ranakpur and Mt. Abu.**

(B, L)



PAGE EIGHTEEN



PAGE NINETEEN

FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS

At the time of printing, flights have not been posted. Please do not purchase airline tickets until you receive official confirmation that the minimum number of guests has been reached.

Please contact Kathy Reed at Travel Answers for flight arrangements.

Kathy Reed
Travel Answers
828 Lancaster Avenue
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010
610-525-2801
kathyreed@travelans.com



PAGE TWENTY

RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and From Lost to Found Travel, LLC act only as agents for the passenger with respect to all transportation, hotels, and all matters of reservations and tour operation. We and our agents accept no responsibility for loss, damage, injury, accident, delay or irregularity, expense, or liability caused by the defect of any vehicle or negligence or default of any independent contractors, their employees, agents, or representatives. Nor do we accept responsibility for losses or delays arising from sickness, pilferage, labor disputes, machinery breakdown, quarantine, government restraints, war, acts of terrorism, weather conditions, or acts of God. All such losses or expenses shall be borne by the tour participant, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated and as described in this brochure.

We reserve the right to substitute services, features, and hotels of similar quality without notice. We reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. We likewise reserve the right to decline to accept or retain any tour participant at any time without being under any obligation to assign any reason therefore. In the event of the exercise of this right, we shall be under no liability to such person(s) except to refund such amount as our absolute discretion deems reasonable to attribute to the uncompleted portion of the tour. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk entirely.

It is understood that air, ship, or train tickets when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and carrier concerned. The airlines and all other transportation companies involved in this tour are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time that the passengers are not on board their planes or conveyances. All services are subject to the laws of the country in which they are rendered.

The tour participant agrees, on behalf of himself, his dependents, heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, to abide by the above conditions and to release and hold harmless the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and From Lost to Found Travel, LLC, and any of their representatives from any and all liability for any delays, damage, loss, injury, or death occurring in relation to this tour. Any payment constitutes agreement by the individual tour participant with the terms and conditions contained in this brochure.

PAGE TWENTY ONE

TERMS & CONDITIONS

This trip has been organized by From Lost to Found Travel, LLC for members and friends of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS). Please read this information carefully. **Contact Suzanne Betts at 215-988-8819 if you have questions.**

Reservations and Payments

A deposit of \$1,900 per person is required at the time of booking. Written confirmation will be provided upon receipt of deposit. Balance of payment will be due by June 24, 2016.

Tour price for PHS members is \$7,490 based on double occupancy; \$7,590 for non-members. Single occupancy of a room requires additional payment of \$2,430.

Number of Guests

A maximum of 16 guests can be accommodated. A minimum of 12 guests are required to operate the tour at the quoted price. Purchase of non-refundable services outside of the tour itinerary (such as airline tickets) before a minimum number of guests have registered is at the sole risk and expense of the guest.

Cancellations

If you cancel: a) prior to June 24, 2016, you forfeit 50% of your trip deposit plus any cancellation fees, surcharges or non-refundable deposits charged to us by individual hotels, airlines or other third-parties; b) between June 24th, 2016 and August 23rd, 2016, you forfeit 50% of the land cost; and c) after August 23rd, 2016, you forfeit 100% of the land cost. All cancellations must be made in writing.

Since we will not waive our stated cancellation and refund policies regardless of cause, we highly encourage travelers to purchase trip cancellation/interruption, baggage delay/loss, and supplemental medical expense insurance. Upon receipt of your trip deposit, you will receive a comprehensive sign-up package that will include our full Payment Terms and Conditions, as well as instructions for purchasing trip cancellation/interruption, baggage delay/loss, and supplemental

TERMS & CONDITIONS (continued)

medical expense insurance. It is important to note that, in order to have a pre-existing medical conditions waiver and a cancel-for-any-reason waiver included in your plan, you must purchase your supplemental travel insurance within 5 to 21 days (depending upon the policy chosen) of making your initial trip deposit.

Payment of your trip deposit will constitute your acknowledgement that you have read and agree to the full Payment Terms and Conditions of From Lost to Found Travel, LLC which can be found at: <http://www.fromlosttofoundtravel.com/pricingandpaymentterms/paymentterms.html>.

Hotels

The itineraries described herein utilize a number of unique, heritage hotels in Rajasthan that are not typically featured in group tours. Some of these properties are hundreds of years old, thus room configurations vary widely. Accessing one's room can sometimes involve climbing steep stairs, as not all of the properties contain elevators. Please inform us if you have any mobility or vision issues that would require a ground floor or other easily accessible room. Please also be advised that twin-bed room configurations will be a mix of Western style (two twin beds of the same size), Hollywood style (two separate mattresses with separate bedding on a King-size bed frame), or Family style (two separate beds of different size). King/Queen room configurations will be a mix of Western style (one large mattress on a large bed frame) and Non-Western style (two twin bed frames pushed together with either one King/Queen or two twin mattresses).

From Lost to Found Travel, LLC reserves the right to change any hotel through any circumstance—the substitute, whenever possible, will be of equal or higher quality than that described in this brochure.

Scheduled Activities

Every effort will be made to provide such services as listed, but where unavoidable circumstances necessitate changes, the best substitute alternatives will be made at the discretion of From Lost to Found Travel, LLC and PHS.

TERMS & CONDITIONS (continued)

Physical Capabilities

The itineraries described herein include a moderate amount of walking and use of stairs and steeply sloped pathways. Furthermore, walking surfaces in India are frequently uneven and unpaved. Smoking is not permitted on vehicles, inside accommodations or restaurants; seat rotation on the vehicle is encouraged.

Fees

Tour Price includes:

- Hotel accommodation for 15 nights (based on double-occupancy) as outlined in the itinerary, including all required taxes and fees (taxes based on the current hotel tariff schedule in India, which is subject to change);
- All meals and beverages as outlined in the itinerary, including one alcoholic beverage at lunch and at dinner;
- All ground transportation as per the itinerary, including all airport transfers;
- All flights within India, including all required taxes and fees;
- All monument/museum/site entry/activity fees;
- The services of an experienced, English-speaking guide;
- All gratuities except for the senior tour guide;
- Baggage handling and portage;
- Bottled water in all vehicles;
- All required local taxes and fees; and,
- \$400 per person donation to PHS.

TERMS & CONDITIONS (continued)

Tour Price does not include:

- International flights from the U.S. to the Indian subcontinent;
- Items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone calls, Internet/business center expenses and room service;
- Meals and beverages other than those specified above;
- Gratuities for the senior tour guide (recommended range of \$15-\$20 a day per traveler);
- Excess baggage charges: Domestic flights within India have weight restrictions for checked baggage of 15 kg (33 lbs) per person, with charges for extra weight ranging from approximately \$2 to \$3 per pound. Carry-on baggage for domestic flights is limited to two pieces. For international departures from India to the U.S., this two-bag limit is **strictly enforced**;
- Trip cancellation/interruption, baggage delay/loss, medical/security evacuation and supplemental medical expense insurance – highly recommended;
- Visa/passport processing costs; and,
- Immunizations and prescription medications required for travel.

RESERVATION FORM

Desert Oasis - The Plants and Gardens of Western Rajasthan

Full Name _____

Date of birth _____

Name for Name badge _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone (home/cell) _____

Email _____

Emergency contact name _____

Phone _____

Relationship _____

Room type

Double Room—one large bed

Double-two beds

Single—willing to share

Single—sole occupancy (\$2,430 supplement applies)

Roommate's name _____

Special Medical or Dietary Needs _____

Desert Oasis – 16 days/15 nights (September 28 – October 13, 2016)

Taj Mahal and Jaipur Pre-trip Extension – 7 days/6 nights
(September 22-28, 2016)

The Jain Temples of Ranakpur and Mt Abu Post-trip Extension –
3 days/2 nights (October 13-15, 2016)

Payment Information

If paying by check, please make payable to PHS

Amount \$ _____ Check # _____

If paying by credit card (VISA, MasterCard, American Express)

Credit Card # _____ Exp Date _____

Amount to be charged _____

Signature _____

WAIVER FORM

I/we, the undersigned member(s)/guests(s) of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, do desire and intend to participate in one or more trips and/or events as the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society may, from time to time, arrange for members and/or guests.

I/we hereby authorize the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, and such officers, employees and agents thereof as may be appropriate, (a) to enter into and execute such arrangements, applications and contacts for the charter of buses, vans, automobiles, boats and other means of transportation as may, in their opinion, be required in connection with such trips and/or events, and (b) to make such arrangements or decisions as may be required or deemed appropriate by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society in connection with such charters and such trips and/or events.

In consideration of my/our agreement to participate in such trips and/or events and undertaking of such arrangements on my behalf, I/we hereby release and discharge the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and each of its directors, officers, employees and agents from all suits, causes, claims of any kind that might arise as a result of or in the course of or in connection with any such trip and/or events, such as charters or arrangements. I/we understand, of course, that this agreement will in no way effect any liability that may arise on the part of any third party.

This release and discharge shall remain in effect until revoked by me/us in writing.

Please sign and date this Waiver and Release Form and return with deposit.

Signature _____ Date _____

Name (print) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Name (print) _____

OPTIONAL PRE-TRIP EXTENSION

The Taj Mahal and Jaipur • September 22-28, 2016

DAY
1

Thursday,
September 22, 2016

Fly U.S. to Delhi, arriving on Thursday, September 22nd. Upon arrival, you will be transferred to your hotel by private car.

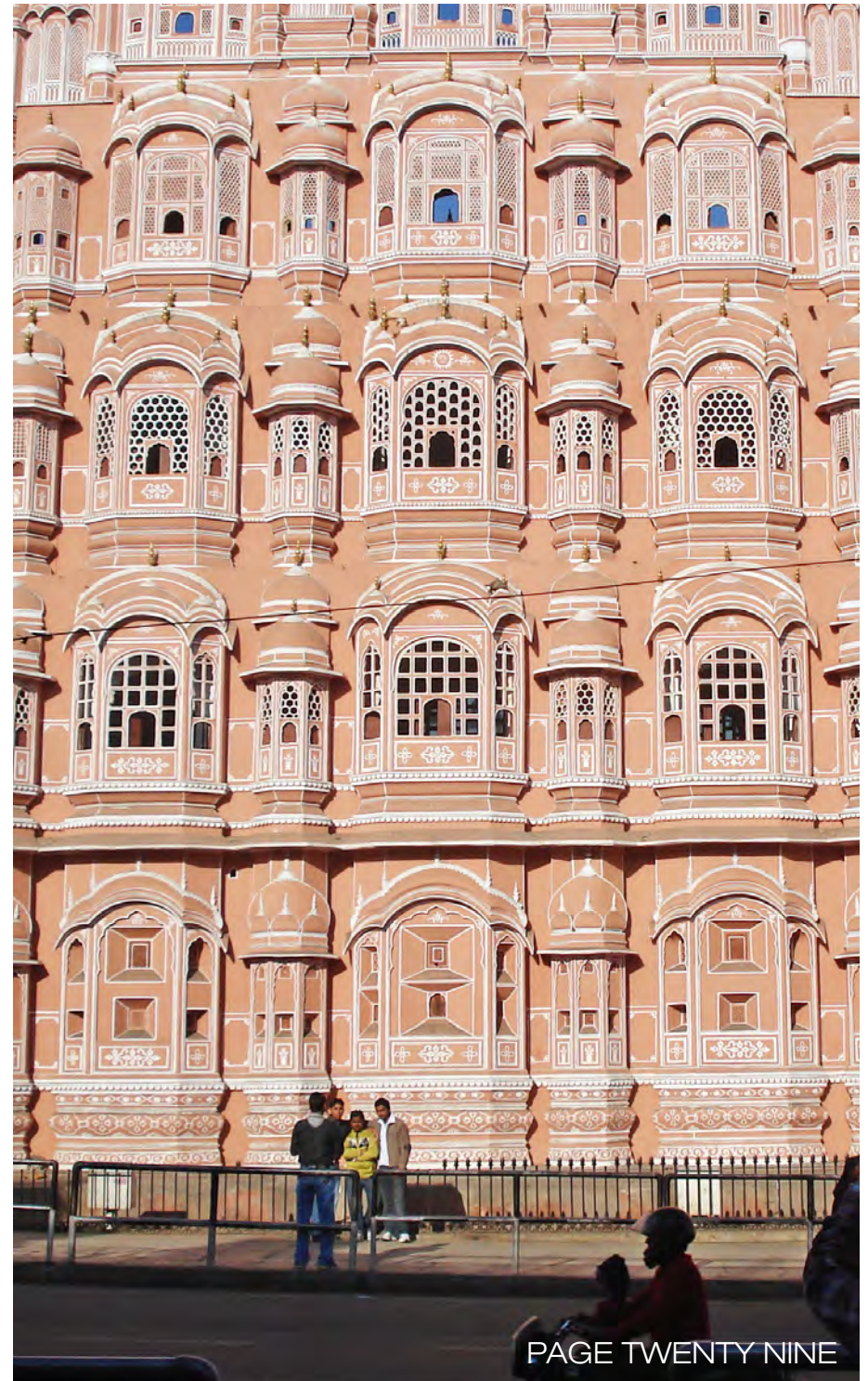
Hotel: *The Leela*, Delhi

DAY
2

Friday,
September 23, 2016

Morning drive through India's modern capital complex. In 1911, Sir Edwin Lutyens was commissioned to design "New Delhi," and the result synthesizes Mughal motifs with Neo-Classical and Edwardian architectural styles. This will be followed by a visit to the Red Fort, the seat of Mughal power in India from 1638 until 1857. The fort was the centerpiece of Shahjahanabad (now Old Delhi), which was designed by Emperor Shah Jahan as the ultimate garden city, filled with flowing water canals, numerous garden spaces and tree-lined boulevards. Lunch will be in Connaught Place, which was built in 1931 as an upscale shopping complex for the British. We will end our day with a visit to Humayun's Tomb, the first Persian tomb garden in India. Built on a monumental scale in 1572 as a 30-acre char bagh (four quadrant garden), it served as a model for many subsequent Mughal tomb gardens.

(B, L, D) Hotel: *The Leela*, Delhi



DAY 3

Saturday,
September 24, 2016

Morning visit to the Mehrauli Archeological Park, home of the Qutub Minar, the world's tallest brick minaret, which was built in 1193 to mark the site of the first Muslim kingdom in North India. After this, we will begin driving to Agra. Upon arrival, we will visit the jewel-box tomb of Itimad-ud-Daulah, a stylistic precursor to the Taj Mahal. Tonight we will watch the sunset over the Taj Mahal from the Mehtab Bagh, or Moonlight Garden.

(B, L, D) Hotel: *Courtyard Marriott, Agra*

DAY 4

Sunday,
September 25, 2016

Morning visit to the Taj Mahal complex, which was built by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his favorite wife, Mumtaz Mahal, who died in 1631. This is a tomb garden of flawless proportions and striking symmetry, covered inside and out with inlaid marble work inspired by the Islamic garden of paradise. This afternoon we will visit a workshop for parchin kari, or marble inlaid with semi-precious stones, which is the same decorative technique used on the Taj Mahal. This will be followed by a tour of Agra Fort, which was built by Emperor Akbar between 1565 and 1573 out of red sandstone.

(B, L, D) Hotel: *Courtyard Marriott, Agra*



DAY 5

Monday,
September 26, 2016

Morning drive to Jaipur, stopping en route to tour the walled city of Fatehpur Sikri, capital of the Mughal empire between 1571 and 1585. Many of the buildings in this complex blend Islamic, Hindu and Jain architectural styles to unique effect. Lunch in Laxmi Vilas Palace. Pre-dinner walk through Badi Chaupar in Jaipur, which is filled with shops selling everything from vegetables and flowers to pottery, spices, shoes, colorful bangles and precious gems.

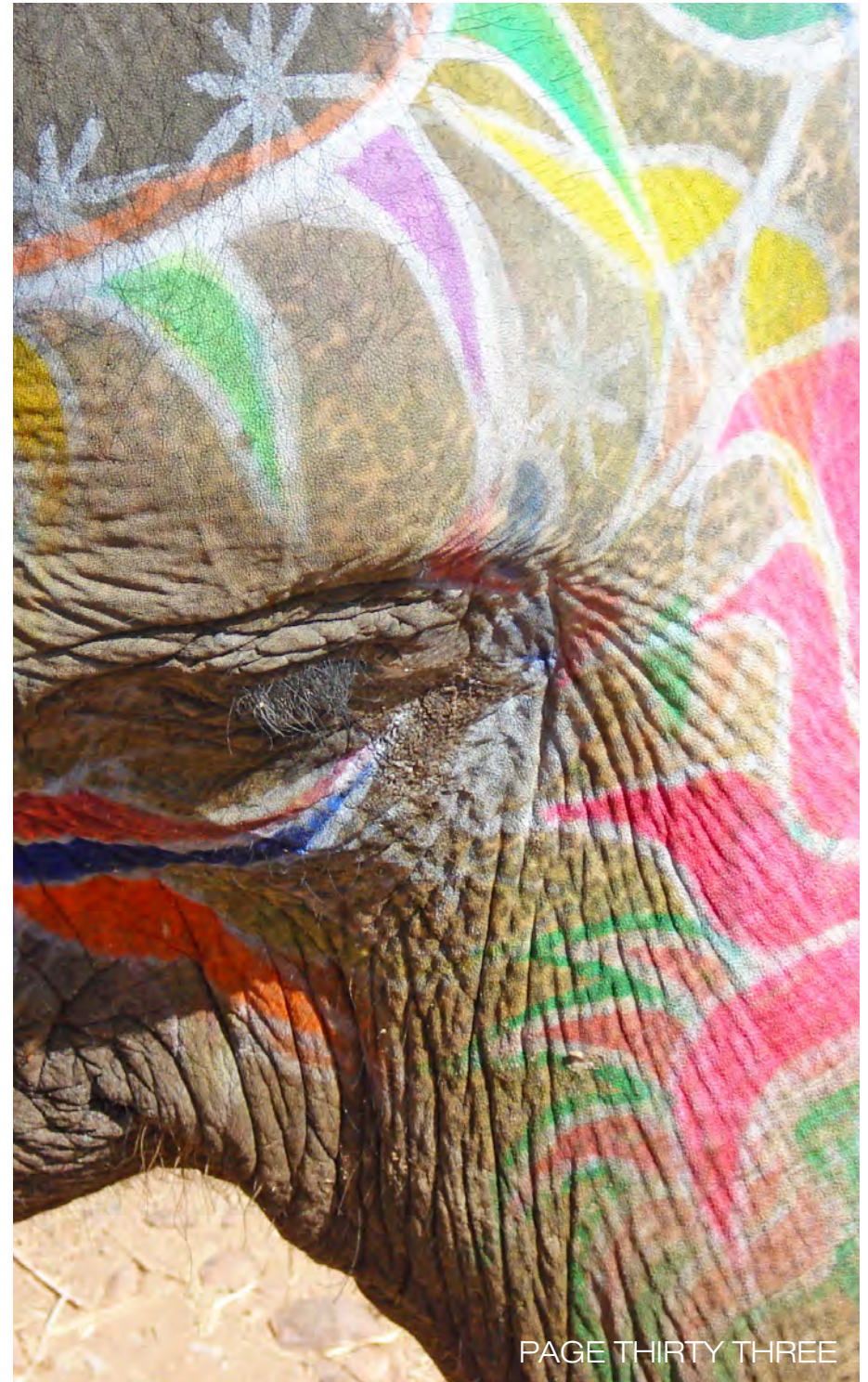
(B, L, D) Hotel: *Samode Haveli, Jaipur*

DAY 6

Tuesday,
September 27, 2016

Morning visit to the Jantar Mantar, the best preserved astronomical observatory in India. This complex contains 16 giant stone and metal instruments used to calculate time, forecast the weather, draw up horoscopes and map the planets and stars. This will be followed by a tour of the City Palace, home to the rulers of Jaipur since the first half of the 18th century. The palace museum contains an extensive collection of carpets, miniature paintings, royal costumes, weaponry and musical instruments. Lunch in a local country house, followed by an elephant trek through the Aravali forest. Afternoon visit to the Amber Fort, a citadel established in 1592 by Man Singh I on the remains of an 11th century fort. Highlights include the three-storied Ganesh Pol gateway, the Aram Bagh pleasure garden and the Shila Devi Temple with its ornate solid silver door.

(B, L, D) Hotel: *Samode Haveli, Jaipur*



DAY
7

Wednesday,
September 28, 2016

Mid-morning departure for Delhi, where you will join your group for **Desert Oasis – The Plants and Gardens of Western Rajasthan**. En route, we will stop for a leisurely lunch at the magnificent 15th-century Neemrana Fort-Palace.

(B, L) Hotel: *The Leela*, Delhi

Pricing and Payment Terms for this Pre-trip Extension

\$2,850 per person based on double occupancy. Single supplement: \$900
Deposit required to hold the booking: \$700.



OPTIONAL POST-TRIP EXTENSION

The Jain Temples of Ranakpur & Mt. Abu • October 13-15, 2016

DAY
1

Thursday,
October 13, 2016

Full day excursion to Ranakpur and Kumbhalgarh. The 15th century temple complex in Ranakpur is one of the five great holy sites of the Jain religion. The central Adinath Temple is constructed out of white marble, and contains 1,444 pillars all carved with different floral patterns, giving it the feel of a marble forest. The filigreed ceiling pendants are mesmerizing, as is the way the sun illuminates different sections of the temple throughout the day. Kumbhalgarh is a massive, 15th-century fort built by Maharana Kumbha at a height of 3,445 feet above sea level. The fort ramparts run for 22 miles and mark the border between the kingdoms of Marwar (Jodhpur) and Mewar (Udaipur). Once described as the most impenetrable fort in Rajasthan, Kumbhalgarh's walls enclose the smaller fortress of Kartargarh, as well as several palaces and temples, fields, water reservoirs and stables.

(B, L, D) Hotel: *Mountbatten Lodge, Ranakpur*



DAY 2

Friday,
October 14, 2016

Morning drive to Mt. Abu, Rajasthan's only hill station (3,700 ft). In the center of town sits Nakki Lake, an artificial lake dotted with 19th-century colonial mansions and the summer palaces of Rajput rulers. Afternoon tour of the Dilwara Jain temples at Mt. Abu, a group of five marble temples completely covered in elaborate, delicate carvings. The Vimala Vasahi Temple, built in 1031, contains an 11-tiered domed ceiling and 52 carved niches containing images of Jain tirthankaras. The Luna Vasahi Temple, built in 1231, features an enormous lotus pendant carved from a single block of marble descending from the domed ceiling. Your home for tonight is Bikaner House, which was built in 1893 to serve as the summer residence of the royal family of Bikaner.

(B, L, D) Hotel: *Bikaner House*, Mt. Abu

DAY 3

Saturday,
October 15, 2016

Morning drive to the Udaipur airport to catch an afternoon flight to Delhi and your return flight to the U.S. **Want to stay in India a bit longer? Enjoy a few days on safari at JAWAI, a luxury tented camp set in leopard country near Udaipur.**

(B, L)

Pricing and Payment Terms for this Post-trip Extension

\$1,095 per person based on double occupancy. Single supplement: \$500
Deposit required to hold the booking: \$400.

